

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
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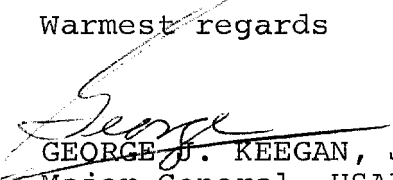
Dear George

Attached are the second and third volumes in our translation series "Soviet Military Thought." Number 2, entitled Marxism-Leninism on War and Army, discusses Marxist-Leninist doctrine on the origin and essence of war -- doctrine which serves as the basis of all Soviet military theory and practice. The book has been published in five Russian-language editions in the USSR. It is listed in the Great Soviet Encyclopedia as a basic reference work and is cited for the particular attention of Soviet Generals, Admirals and Officers. The English-language edition which we have published was released in Moscow during the summer of 1973.

The third volume, entitled Scientific-Technical Progress and the Revolution in Military Affairs, was also published in 1973. This book, part of the Officer's Library series, analyzes the qualitative changes in weapons and the technical outfitting of the Soviet armed forces. It also discusses Soviet military organization and methods of combat in the modern world.

These volumes are part of our continuing effort to make the more important Soviet doctrinal writings available to a larger audience. I trust that these books, like The Offensive before them, will be useful in providing an enhanced understanding of Soviet perceptions of contemporary military affairs.

Warmest regards


GEORGE J. KEEGAN, Jr.
Major General, USAF
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SCIENTIFIC-TECHNICAL PROGRESS AND
THE REVOLUTION IN MILITARY AFFAIRS
(A SOVIET VIEW)

The third in the series on Soviet military thought, translated and published under the auspices of the United States Air Force, was published in 1973 by the Soviet Ministry of Defense publishing house.

The book was prepared by a group of officers and generals who are recognized spokesmen of Soviet military affairs.

Chapter One reviews the role and impact of science and technology on military developments. The argument is made that through science the nature of modern warfare has been changed.

Chapters Two and Three discuss nuclear and conventional weapons and their means of employment. Delivery systems of many types are explored within the framework that "the present-day revolution in military affairs has been related primarily to the creation of nuclear weapons."

Chapter Four deals with the development and current organization of the Soviet armed forces. Generalized mission statements are offered such as "the strikes by long-range aviation can substantially supplement actions of the Strategic Missile Forces and the Navy."

Chapters Five through Eight address the broad issues of how modern wars are waged, command and control problems and troop leadership. In discussing the basic provisions of Soviet military strategy, the authors state that a future "war can be a nuclear one involving the use of the entire might of the existing nuclear missile weapons by both sides. At the same time, in such a war conventional weapons can also be employed....The development of the war is possible by various means, including the surprise use of nuclear weapons or conventional means of destruction."

Chapter Nine analyzes Western military doctrines. In criticizing U.S. doctrine the authors state "The achievement of superiority by the Soviet Union over the imperialist aggressors in the might of nuclear ammunition and the possibility of the inexorable and accurate delivery of them to the designated target forced the military and political leadership of the imperialist states to openly recognize the need to 'reassess values'."

Chapter Ten treats the social consequences of nuclear weaponry. "This means that the unprecedented threat of nuclear war hangs constantly over modern mankind as long as imperialism lasts. This threat has assumed the nature of a particular social category which can be called the nuclear danger." The thrust of this chapter is that the initiatives of political and military power in the world now belong to the Soviet Union.

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